

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. The specification has been amended to insert headings.

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claim 12 has been amended to better set forth the claimed invention. Other claim amendments improve the language in a non-narrowing fashion. Claim 17 is new and generally recites subject matter from claims 1 and 12 without using "means" language.

Acknowledgement of the allowability of claims 1-11 and 14-16 is noted with appreciation.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Claim Objections

The claims have been objected to as containing informalities.

The Office Action objects to the utilization of the term "it" in the claims. The claims, as amended, do not utilize this term.

The Office Action asserts that the claims are confusing in regards to a reference numeral. The claims, as amended, are clear in regards to reference numerals.

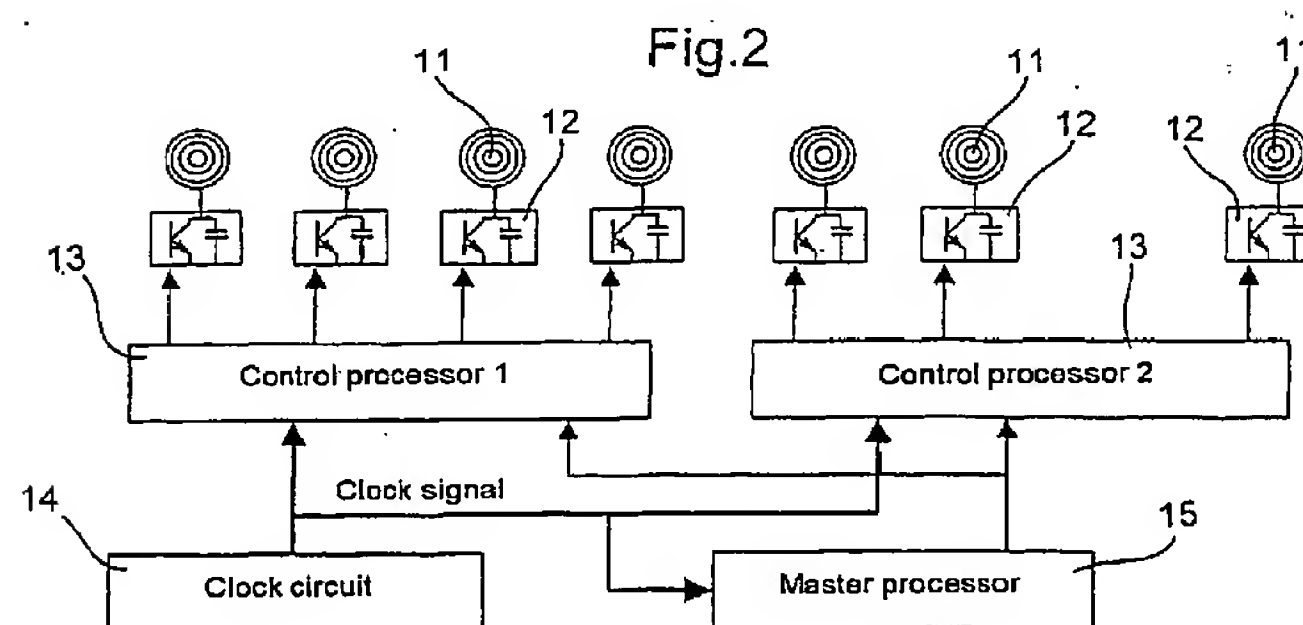
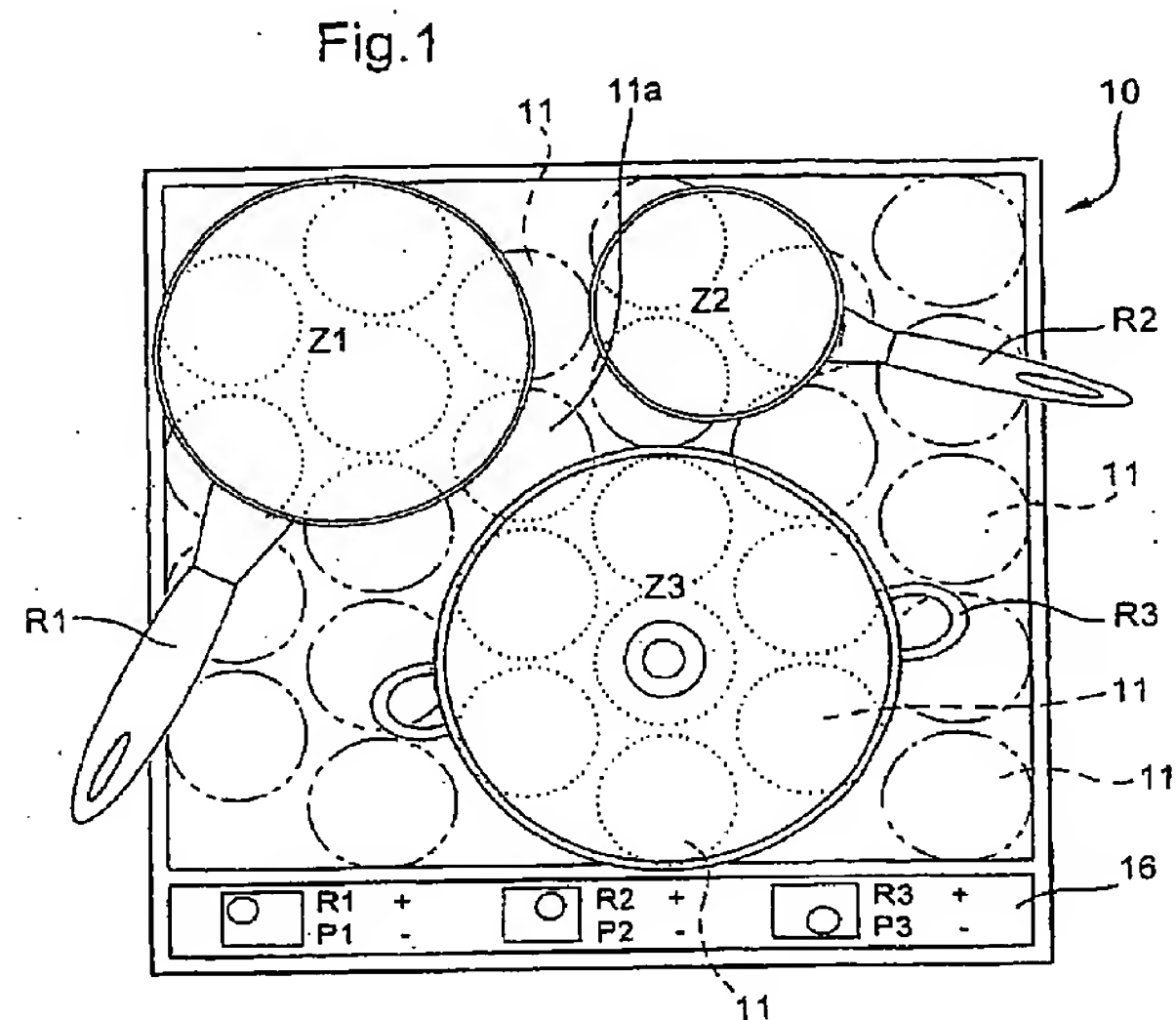
Art Rejections

Claims 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by GASPARD (U.S. Patent 5,808,280).

Claims 12 has been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by ZAPF (U.S. Patent 6,184,501).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention pertains to a cooktop that is illustrated, by way of example, by Figures 1 and 2 of the application, which are reproduced below.



As is recited in instant claim 12, the cooktop is formed from:

heating means (11) respectively associated with the inductors forming induction detection means for detecting the presence of the container, said heating means associated with said inductors forming a two-dimensional array on a cooking surface;

means for searching for the heating area formed from the heating means at least partially covered by the container; and

means for calculating the power delivered by each heating means.

GASPARD pertains to a device for induction heating of a cooking receptacle. Figure 1 of GASPARD is reproduced below.

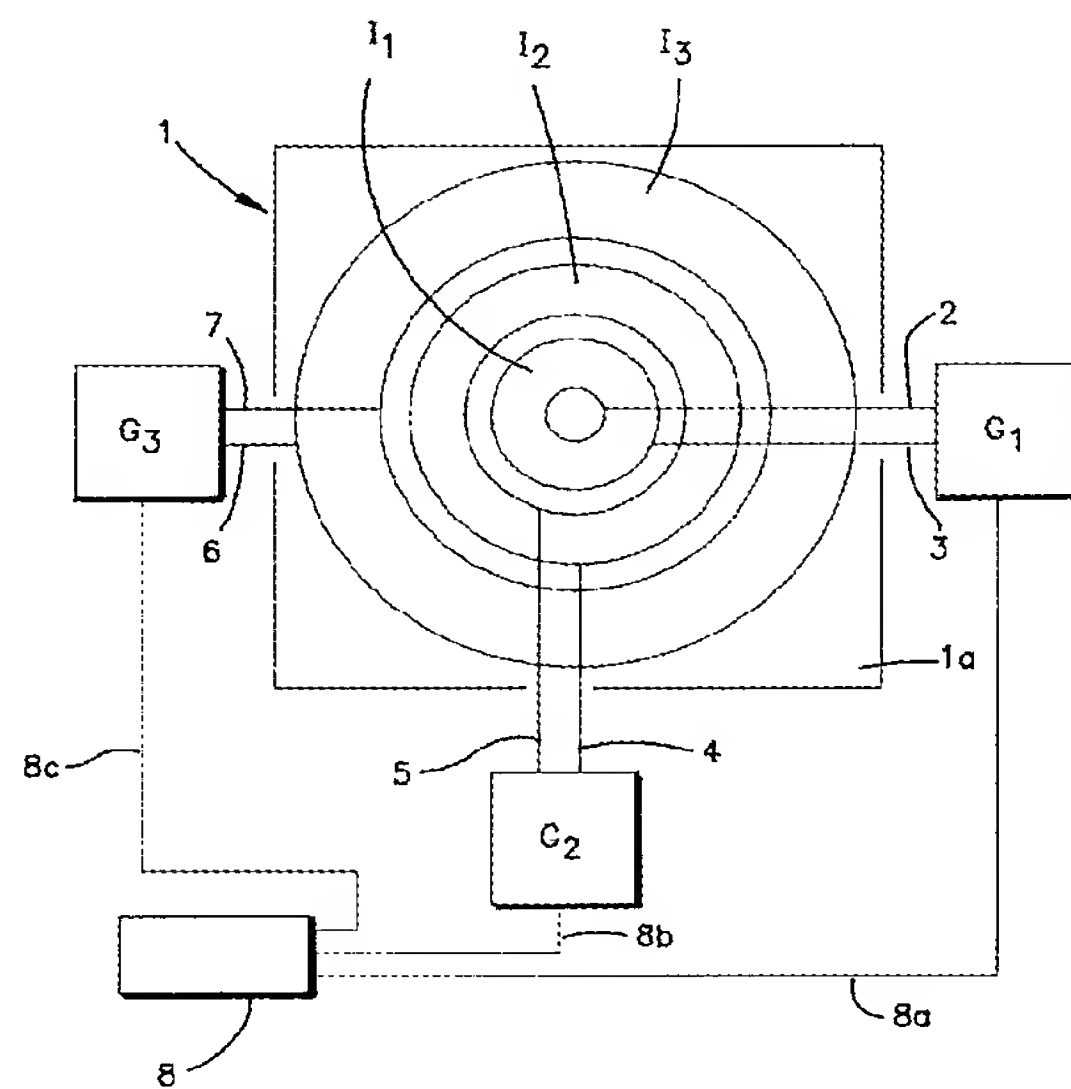


FIG. 1

Figure 1 of GASPARD shows generators G_1 , G_2 , G_3 supplying power to induction coils I_1 , I_2 , I_3 .

ZAPF pertains to a system for detecting the presence of a cooking vessel positioned over a heating element. Figure 2 of ZAPF is reproduced below.

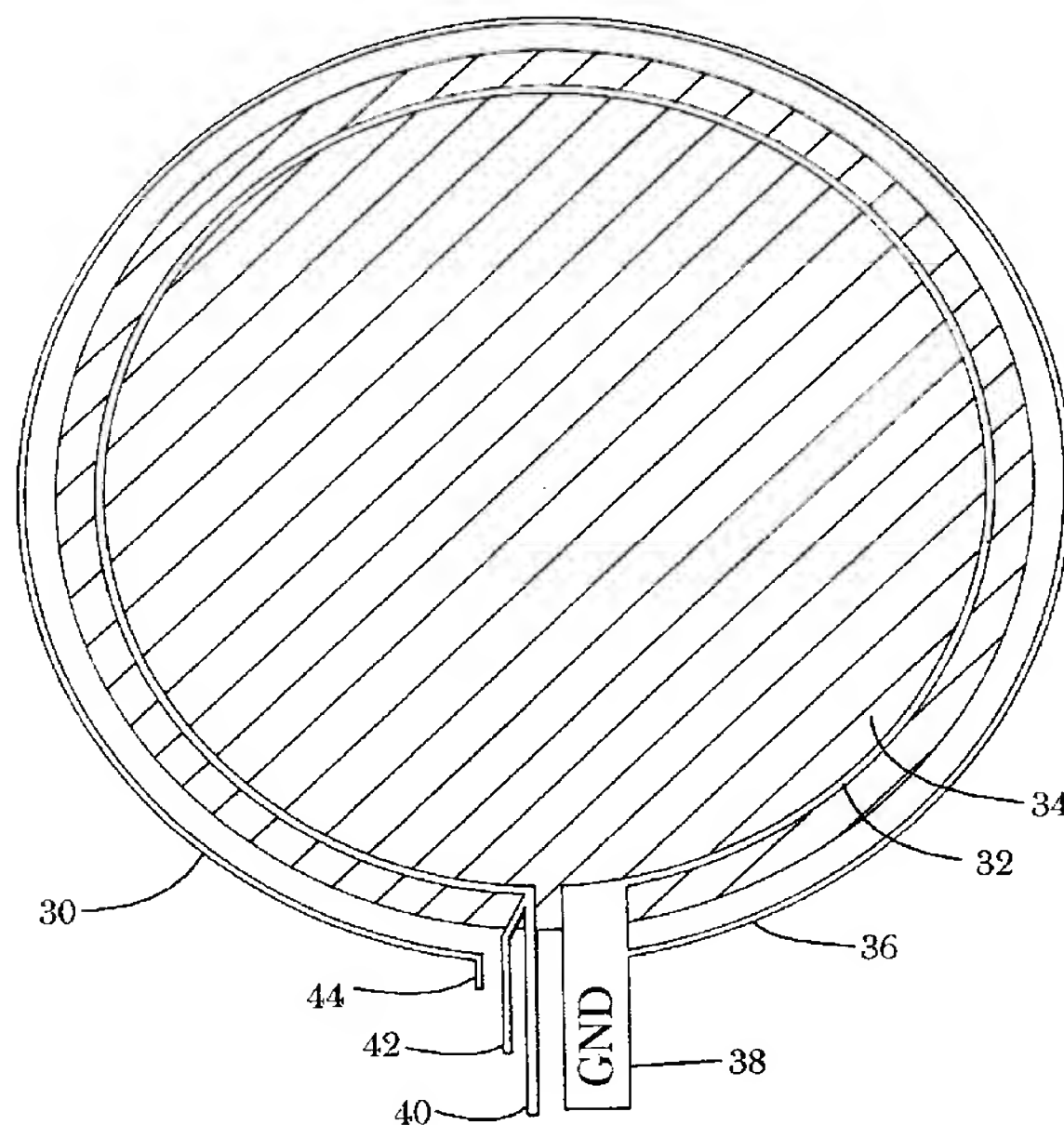


Fig. 2

The technology of ZAPF utilizes a drive loop for generating a time varying magnetic field upon the application of an alternating current to a sensor loop proximal to the drive loop.

However, neither GASPARD nor ZAPF set disclose or infer *"means for searching for the heating area formed from the heating means at least partially covered by the container; and means for calculating the power delivered by each heating means,"* such as is set forth in instant claim 12 of the present invention.

Therefore, neither GASPARD nor ZAPF anticipate a claimed embodiment of the present invention.

These rejections are believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statements filed May 26, 2006 and March 30, 2007 and for making the references therein of record in the application.

Prior art of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

The objections and rejections are believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot. As no issues remain, the issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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